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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/928,292	08/10/2001	David K. Lee	F- 259	7963
919	7590	09/26/2005	EXAMINER	
PITNEY BOWES INC. 35 WATERVIEW DRIVE P.O. BOX 3000 MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-8000			BASS, JON M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3639	
DATE MAILED: 09/26/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/928,292	Applicant(s) LEE ET AL.	
	Examiner Jon Bass	Art Unit 3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to communication filed on August 10, 2001. Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. An initialed and dated copy of Applicant's IDS form 1449 is attached to the instant Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. **Claims 1-21 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pavo Pusic et al (US Patent No: 5,025,386) hereinafter referenced as Pusic.

As Per Claim 1:

Pusic discloses a method for tracking a special service delivery by a carrier of a mail item created by an office worker, the method comprising the steps of, [{col.2, lines 23-25}; tracking process to be performed by automated means]:

applying a special service indicator to the mail item during creation of the mail item,
[{{col.2, lines 31-33}}; destination zip-code is printed on a mail in form of barcode];

sending the mail item to a mail room for final processing prior to submitting the mail
item to the carrier for the special service delivery, [{{col.3, lines 44-45}}; sending machine];

automatically detecting at the mail room the special service indicator on the mail item
and determining the special service delivery required based on the detection of the special
service indicator, [{{col.2, lines 32-34}}; automatically sorted all the way to point of delivery];

applying at the mail room a unique identifier to the mail item, the unique identifier
including an electronic address of a company server, [{{col.2, lines 37-40}}; oart of the printed
bar-code showing the mailing zip-code is printed in numerals];

submitting the mail item with the unique identifier thereon to the carrier for the special
service delivery, [{{fig 3}}; transfer, transport, conveyor and mail dropping];

receiving from the carrier at the electronic address obtained by the carrier from the
unique identifier on the mail item information relating to the location of the mail item, [{{col.10,
lines 58-59}}; receiving the item to be mailed];

storing the information relating to the location of the mail item at the company server,
[{{col.4, lines 59-60}}; storing required data]; and

providing the office worker with access to the company server to obtain the information
relating to the location of the mail item, [{{col. 8, lines 6-10}}; suitable for tracking].

As Per Claims 2 and 14:

Pusic discloses a method for wherein the special service indicator is a specific color associated the special service delivery, [{col.2, lines 31-33}; destination zip-code is printed on mail form of barcode].

As Per Claims 3 and 15:

Pusic discloses a method wherein at the mail room the specific color is automatically detected and identified to determine the special service delivery required by the mail item, [{col. 2, lines 32-34}; automatically sorted all the way to point of delivery].

As Per Claims 4 and 16:

Pusic discloses a method wherein the specific color is selected from a plurality of different colors, each of the plurality of different colors serving as an indicator of a different special service delivery requirement, [{col.2, lines 48-54}; special request entered with identification code in numeral for tracking mailing, which the code is assigned destination and billing].

As Per Claim 5:

Pusic discloses a method wherein the special service indicator is a label, [{col.1, line 14}; ability to print bar code labels].

As Per Claim 6:

Pusic discloses a method wherein the special service indicator is printed on the mail item, [{col.1, lines 50-51}; printed precisely on an envelopes lower edge].

As Per Claim 7:

Pusic discloses a method wherein the special service indicator is machine readable, [{col.3, lines 66-67}; laser readable bar-code].

As Per Claim 8:

Pusic discloses a method wherein the information relating to the mail item includes an image of the mail item, [{col.8, lines 9-10}; scanning].

As Per Claim 9:

Pusic discloses a method wherein the information relating to the location of the mail item further includes date, time, and location data, [{col.2, lines 24-25}; each mailing can be sorted and tracked].

As Per Claim 10:

Pusic discloses a method wherein automatically detecting the special service indicator is accomplished using a mailing machine, [{abstract}; automated mail machine].

As Per Claim 11:

Pusic discloses a method for A method for tracking a special service delivery by a carrier of a mail item created by an office worker, the method comprising the steps of, [{col.2, lines 23-25}; tracking process to be performed by automated means]:

applying a first special service indicator to the mail item during creation of the mail item; sending the mail item to a mail room for final processing prior to submitting the mail item to the carrier for the special service delivery, [{col.2, lines 31-33}; destination zip-code is printed on a mail in form of barcode];

automatically detecting the first special service indicator on the mail item and determining the special service delivery required based on the detection of the first special service indicator, , [{col.2, lines 32-34}; automatically sorted all the way to point of delivery];

applying at the mail room a second special service indicator to the mail item, the second special service indicator including an identification for the carrier of the special service delivery required and a unique identifier including an electronic address of a company server, [{col.2, lines 31-33}; destination zip-code is printed on a mail in form of barcode];

submitting the mail item with the unique identifier thereon to the carrier for the special service delivery, [{fig 3}; transfer, transport, conveyer and mail dropping];

receiving from the carrier at the electronic address obtained by the carrier from the unique identifier on the mail item information relating to the location of the mail item, [{col.10, lines 58-59}; receiving the item to be mailed];

storing the information relating to the location of the mail item at the company server,
[{{col.4, lines 59-60}}; storing required data]; and

providing the office worker with access to the company server to obtain the information
relating to the location of the mail item, [{{col. 8, lines 6-10}}; suitable for tracking].

As Per Claim 12:

Pusic discloses a method wherein the office worker obtains the information relating to the
location of the mail item using the unique identifier, [{{col.1, lines 33-36}}; barcode is used for
storing and tracking location].

As Per Claim 13:

Pusic discloses a method for further comprising the carrier assigning a carrier unique ID
to the mail item and tracking the mail item during the special service delivery using the carrier
unique ID, and wherein the office worker obtains the information relating to the location of the
mail item without knowledge of the carrier unique ID, [{{col.1, lines 33-36}}; barcode is used for
storing and tracking location].

As Per Claim 17:

Pusic discloses a method for A mailing machine comprising: means for applying postage
to a mail item having a first special service indicator thereon, [{{col.1, lines 7-9}}; postage meter];

means for transporting mail items to the applying means, [{{col.2, lines 35-40}}; sorted and
tracked];

means for detecting the first special service indicator and for determining a special service delivery required based on the detected special service indicator, [{col.2, lines 24-25}; sorted and tracked]; and

means for applying a second special service indicator to the mail item, the second special service indicator including an electronic address and an identification for the carrier of the special service delivery required, [{col.2, lines 31-33}; destination zip-code is printed on mail form of barcode].

As Per Claim 18:

Pusic discloses a method for A mailing machine as set forth in claim 17, wherein the first special service indicator is a specific color associated with the special service delivery required, [{col.2, lines 31-33}; destination zip-code is printed on mail form of barcode].

As Per Claim 19:

Pusic discloses a method for A mailing machine as recited in claim 18, wherein means for detecting and determining detects the specific color and correlates the specific color to the special service delivery required by the mail item, [{col.2, lines 31-33}; destination zip-code is printed on mail form of barcode].

As Per Claim 20:

Pusic discloses a method for mailing machine as recited in claim 17, wherein the electronic address is an electronic address for the mailing machine, [{fig 8}; barcode].

As Per Claim 21:

Pusic discloses a method for A mailing machine as recited in claim 20, wherein the electronic address is a URL, [{fig 8}; barcode].

Conclusion

Any concerns in regard to this communication, the examiner **Jon Bass** can be reached at **(571) 272-6905** between the hours of **9-6pm Monday through Friday**. The fax number for the establishment where the application is being process is **(571) 273-8300**.

If an attempt to reach the examiner is unsuccessful for any reason, the examiner's immediate supervisor, **John Hayes** can be reached at **(571) 272-6708**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see [http:// pair-direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-271-9197 (toll free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

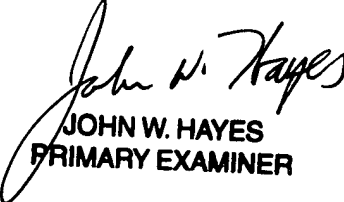
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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JOHN W. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

